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Land in Farms Remains Stable

Total land in Maryland farms remained unchanged for the fifth consecutive year, at 2.1 million acres. However, there was a slight decline in the number of farming operations, from 12,400 farms in 2001 to 12,200 in 2002. The decline was among small farm with \$1,000 to \$9,999 in sales, which numbered 5,900 in 2001 but dropped to 5,700 in 2002. The number of farms reporting over \$10,000 in sales remained at 6,500 operations.

Likewise, there was a drop in total acreage for farms that had sales between \$1,000 and \$9,999, from 400,000 acres in 2001 to 350,000 acres in 2002. There was a slight increase in the total acreage for farming operations reporting over \$10,000 in sales, from 1.7 million acres in 2001 to 1.75 million acres in 2002. The average farm size increased from 169 acres to 172 acres.

Farm Numbers and Acreage, Maryland

Year	Number of Farms ¹	Average Acres Per Farm	Total Land in Farms
<i>Thousand Acres</i>			
1960	27,100	138	3,750
1965	22,100	156	3,450
1970	18,800	164	3,080
1975	16,500	179	2,950
1980	17,500	157	2,750
1985	17,500	149	2,600
1990	15,200	148	2,250
1991	15,400	146	2,250
1992	15,600	141	2,200
1993	15,000	153	2,300
1994	14,500	152	2,200
1995	14,300	154	2,200
1996	13,700	161	2,200
1997	13,000	169	2,200
1998	12,500	172	2,150
1999	12,400	169	2,100
2000	12,400	169	2,100
2001	12,400	169	2,100
2002	12,200	172	2,100

¹ A farm is any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year.

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